The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matter, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 14, NO. 32. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1924. WHOLE NO. 707.

Strikers Are Assured Jury Trial In Contempt Cases

Washington, Oct. 25.—The United States supreme court has upheld the constitutionality of the trial-by-jury section of the Clayton act.

Under that law a striker charged with contempt of court must be accorded a trial by jury upon demand of the accused.

The case involved several railroad shop men who suspended work two years ago on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, and who were enjoined by the usual Daugherty injunction. They were charged with violating the court order and were found guilty of contempt. They appealed to the United States supreme court on the ground that the Clayton act provides for a trial by jury in these cases, and this was refused by the lower courts.

In reversing the convictions, the supreme court swept aside a 40 years' practice of injunction judges. These courts compel persons charged with contempt to prove their innocence, instead of placing the proof on employers. This practice has been continuously referred to by organized labor in its agitation against the whole system of labor injunctions and the bias of courts.

VOCAL PATRIOTS DISMAYED; COURT BOWS TO POPULAR WILL

The United States supreme court has placed America's vocal patriots in an awkward position.

This gentry insists that the courts are above and beyond any control or suggestion by congress.

The supreme court has just ruled that where a striker is charged with contempt of court he is entitled, under the Clayton law, to a trial by jury.

The courts have uniformly held that the power to issue injunctions carries with it the inherent power to punish violation of these injunctions.

The supreme court now accepts an order from congress that this practice cease. In passing the Clayton law, congress reminds the court of certain guarantees in the federal constitution.

Does the court say: "We are independent of congress?" or does it accept the dictum of the people's representatives?

Ask Dawes as he leads his bunged-up Minute Men to the rear.

Organized labor's resistance to the injunction in times of strike has been justified. The next step is to abolish the labor injunction and re-establish government by law.

The supreme court now orders that this practice be abandoned.

The court drew a sharp line between criminal contempts, which strikers are charged with, and contempts committed within the presence of the court or so near thereto as to obstruct the administration of justice." These distinctions have always been made by organized labor. workers have never denied the right and the necessity of courts to enforce a proper respect for workers in matters not covered by the law of the land.

"Contempts of the kind within the terms of the (Clayton) statute partake of the nature of crimes in all essential particulars," the court said. "duly are they crimes that it seems to be proved that in the early law they were punished only by the usual criminal procedure, and that, at least in England, it seems that they still may be and preferably are, tried in that way."

The above reference to other cases again sustains organized labor's charge that the courts have usurped the enforcement of law where strikers are involved and that this usurpation is of recent date.

The decision does not lessen the power of judges to issue labor injunctions, though the jury trial that workers may now demand, will put an end to the autocroristic policy of courts that assume their one function is to aid anti-union employers in smashing strikes.

The supreme court took the same position in the case of Sandefur vs. Canoe Creek coal company.

The court also ruled that when workers strike their status as employes is not changed.

OLD-PARTY PLATFORMS REJECTED BY WORKERS

Washington, Oct. 25.—"Political parties are no better than their platforms," said President Gompers in a communication to the trade union movement, urging the election of La Follette and Wheeler and a progressive congress.

"The platform that the Republican party adopted at its Cleveland convention, and the platform the Democrats adopted in New York both put to shame the most reactionary platforms ever adopted by political parties," President Gompers said.

"So rotten are the planks in these platforms that the candidates standing upon them are seeking to save themselves by uttering platitudes that will draw away the attention of the voters away from the truth.

"Speakers and delegates at the Republican convention in public and private condemned the present congress because it followed the principle that this is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

"It was declared that every means should be used to elect members of congress who would be willing to take orders from the chief executive; it was said that a congress of 'dependable' members should be elected, and by 'dependable' was meant those who would follow the leadership of a chief executive, no matter what dangerous road he would travel.

"A vote for Coolidge and Dawes or Davis and Bryan is a vote to retain the present unsatisfactory administration, as both tickets represent the same interests. A vote for La Follette and Wheeler is a vote to abolish corruption and bring the government back to the people.

"Let me appeal to my fellow workers and to all our sympathetic friends to not overlook the necessity of voting as carefully for members of congress as for president. Let us make the next congress better than the present congress is unworthy."

DAUGHERTY RECORDS HID FROM SENATORS

Washington, Oct. 25.—The senate committee that is investigating the department of justice under Daugherty has failed to secure the books of the brother of the former attorney general, who is a banker in Washington House, Inc., records. The committee is asking the courts for an early decision that the banker present his books.

The attorney general did not appear before the committee. This is his right, though his refusal to appear is considered an acknowledgment that he has something to conceal.

The fear of exposure can be inferred by a statement by Senator Ashurst, last summer, who declared that Daugherty was "the most cruel and disingenious."

In urging his colleagues to read the senate record of testimony before the committee, Senator Ashurst presented this sensational summary:

"Judge McClintic showed he is acquainted with industrial conditions in Logan county and with the efforts of coal barons to further degrade their non-union employes.

"The bootlegging that Chafin, sheriff of Logan county, was engaged in, said Judge McClintic, 'had its inception largely in the desire of people to control the human beings who live in that county, and to use certain people of certain classes and make them do what they want them to do; and if they did not do it, then they would be driven out.'

Judge McClintic said he did not care "what the suppliant judge of Logan county or the prosecuting attorney of Logan county' do, but the fact remains, said the judge, that these public officials protected the sheriff and his pals in their bootlegging.

Hard Work Will Oust Privilege, Is La Follette's Ringing Message

Washington, Oct. 25.—"The east is the battlefield," declared Senator La Follette in a message to Senator Wheeler, a copy of which the senator forwarded to A. F. of L. headquarters.

"All agree that independent progressive ticket will win west if state and local organizations put on full steam from now until polls close," Senator La Follette said. "Prairie states are aflame with progressive sentiment from Mississippi to Rockies.

"Every advice I have received from Pacific coast and Rocky mountain states confirms your assurance of success there. The talk of throwing the election into congress is an admission of defeat by our disheartened opponents. They are now bending every effort to elect their candidates but to prevent decisive progressive victory on November 4. They can not win by the direct vote of the people. We can.

"The election is ours if we carry progressive states east of the Mississippi with large electoral votes. Reports from state managers confirm my conviction that people of these states are aroused and ready to clinch election under progressive leadership.

"I am confident that the people of the west will carry on. I am, therefore, turning east from Omaha. The east is the real battle ground. I am sending my tentative itinerary in separate wire. Trust you will be able to arrange your speaking dates so that our efforts will be effectively co-ordinated for victory.

"We are determined to win election by direct vote of the people on November 4. To do this we must have electoral votes of progressive states east of Mississippi and we are going to get them. I am confident that victory is at hand."

MINERS RESISTING WAGE-CUTTING PLOT

Indianapolis, Oct. 25.—The greatest financial and industrial interests in America are making a desperate attempt to destroy the United Mine Workers of America, declares the United Mine Workers' Journal. Never before have the miners faced such "a bitter, vicious attack as is being made at this time."

"Every possible force and influence that can be marshaled is utilized to break down the union and throw the coal industry back to the days of industrial servitude.

"There are injunctions and more injunctions; lawsuits and more lawsuits; contract violations and more contract violations; attempted starvation and more attempted starvation; evictions and more evictions; gunmen and more gunmen; oppression and more oppression; treachery and more treachery.

"The whole thing revolves around an attempt to reduce the wages" of mine workers so the coal owners may make greater profits. Nothing else is involved. In non-union and unorganized coal fields, where armed gunmen are employed by coal companies to terrorize and beat up offensive workers, wages have been cut, even below the starvation line.

"Some of these non-union coal companies are reaping enormous profits by reason of the wage reductions which they have forced upon helpless employes.

"But there is one great outstanding fact that shines forth through all of this struggle. The lines of the union have held and are holding. The desperate efforts of these union leaders have failed to break the morale of men who are fighting to earn a decent living.

"It is one of the greatest fights in industrial history.

"Back the United Mine Workers of America will not fail. This is not the first time these forces have attacked the union. Time and again they have tried the same thing, and in each case have failed."

MILLIONS ARE RAISED BY FAVORED BUSINESS

Washington, Oct. 25.—Testimony before the senate committee that is investigating campaign contributions reveal inside methods by big business to raise enormous sums of dollars for "educational purposes."

Reaction has insisted that the La Follette forces have large sums of money at their command, but the senate committee finds that this national committee has $4,000,000. The Republicans acknowledged that they received $1,700,000, and Chairman Butler of that national committee said the amount will be $3,000,000 before election. This does not include moneys contributed to state committees. New York is expected to raise $1,000,000. Pennsylvania's quota is $600,000, and $300,000 for Illinois. The Pennsylvania fund is in charge of Joseph R. Grundy, president of the Manufacturers' association of that state and leading opponent of social legislation of every character. In one of his appeals, Mr. Grundy made this significant statement: "Surely we should be moved to adopt measures, immediate and serious, which an enlightened self-interest suggests."

In another plea for funds, issued on the letterhead of the Steel Founders and Metals National bank of New York, business men are called upon to "defend American principles and department heads." It is suggested that these be held dp for from $10 to $250. The "department heads" are business assistants should contribute liberally," business men are reminded.

The Manufacturers' association of Philadelphia warns that present tariff laws are in danger, and that "the primary purpose of the organization of this said was to help maintain a protective tariff." Last this plea be considered too business like, the letter winds up as follows: "We appeal for your material support of our existing form of government and American principles."

Carl W. Riddick, former congressman from Montana, who was defeated by Senator Wheeler, was another to see in waving the flag. As chief shaker down for the National Republican league, he says:

"To be a trifle blunt, let me say I hope you will sign the enclosed slip and endorse check at the earliest possible moment."

The Democrats have raised approximately $350,000, and expect to secure $750,000, it is stated.

BITTER ANTI-UNIONIST AGAIN IN LIMELIGHT

Philadelphia, Oct. 25.—The senate committee that is investigating campaign collections has cited Samuel Vauclain, president of the Baldwin locomotive works.

Mr. Vauclain is an ardent advocate of the Coolidge candidacy, and is just as ardent in his hatred of trade unionism. In a speech at New Orleans he declared that the way to stop strikes is to discharge workers and jail trade union officials. The Baldwin locomotive works is one of the most notorious sweat shops in the country. The contract system is generally, and a multiplicity of contractors employ their own labor and arbitrarily set wages, with workers having no voice in the transaction.

Two years ago the interstate commerce commission made a report on the manner in which this company and the Pennsylvania railroad, another bitter anti-union corporation, defrauded the public in repairing 200 locomotives. The total gouge was approximately $8,000,000, and the amount ranged from $11,000 to $16,000 for each locomotive. The commission reached this conclusion by using the cost figures of the shops of the Pennsylvania railroad.

The railroad claimed it could not do the work in its own shops, but this the commission denied. The contract was signed 10 days after the railroad control of railroads was terminated.

The commission found that some of the Baldwin work was defective, and when it was properly repaired, the railroad paid for it the second time.

Mr. Vauclain is now preaching the doctrine of "Why Change?"

ABUSING OPPONENT IS REACTION'S ALIBI

Lansing, Mich., Oct. 25.—"It is a familiar alibi of those who want to control government for their own selfish interests to open the flood gates of abuse," said Governor Blaine of Wisconsin in a speech favorable to the election of Senator La Follette.

"The practice of calling names is not unfamiliar to General Dawes," the Wisconsin executive said. "General Dawes came to Wisconsin not long ago and used the langunge of the back alley in abusing Senator La Follette.

"The so-called radical proposals and dangerous innovations which are said to be the main planks in La Follette's platform when he was governor of Wisconsin included an advocacy of the direct primary system, equal and just taxation of individuals and corporations, anti-bribery laws, the merit system in public service, prohibition of corrupt practices, ad valorem taxation of public utilities, and adequate funds for health, labor and agriculture services. Not even the blindest reactionary would say today that these things are radical."

ANOTHER STEEL TRUST IS BEING DISCUSSED

New York, Oct. 25.—The federal trade commission's order that "Pittsburgh plus" in the steel industry be abandoned, may result in a merger of independent steel mills.

Under "Pittsburgh plus," the public was compelled to pay freight rates from Pittsburgh on every ton of steel they purchased, though the steel never saw Pittsburgh.

The steel trust was the most earnest defender of this system, and for years fought to continue the practice. Now it is found that a discontinuance of "Pittsburgh plus" does not affect the trust, because its mills are located in various sections of the country. This gives the trust an advantage over independent mills located in Youngstown, Pittsburgh and Chicago districts and the independents are discussing consolidation.

MANY WORKERS KILLED

Albany, N. Y., Oct. 25.—There were 1,780 death claims filed with the state workmen's compensation bureau for the 12 months from October, 1923, to September, 1924. These claims represent fatalities in industrial accidents.

"The filing of these 1,780 death claims," said Industrial Commissioner Shientag, "indicates the astoundingly great number of lives lost in the commercial and industrial activities of the state."

These deaths do not include fatalities in non-commercial industries, over which the industrial commissioner has no control.

FICTITIOUS VALUES CAUSE HIGH RENTS

Washington, Oct. 25.—An organization of renters in this city has asked President Coolidge for authority to use one of the parks, with army tents and campaign equipment for the relief of 2,000 tenants who are threatened with eviction by profiteering landlords.

A federal law is supposed to check these gougers, but through court procedure this law defeats the act ineffective. An investigation conducted by a senate committee has further showed that properties in the nation's capital are mortgaged in excess of their values and the owners demand rentals on these fictitious figures.

Thirty-three apartments are mortgaged for an aggregate of $9,000,000 more than their sales prices. Figures in other cases show fictitious mortgages had encumbered properties from 13 to as high as 627 per cent above their sales prices.

Interest on these debts, based on false values are paid by tenants in high rent, while the owners and the public press blame "high wages" for exorbitant rentals.

CAN'T DEBAR WOMEN FROM PUBLIC OFFICE

Austin, Texas, Oct. 25.—The state supreme court has swept aside every objection to Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson being placed on the ballot as a candidate for governor. The court rejected the pleas of Mrs. Ferguson's opponents, who delved into the dim and distant past for reasons why women should not aspire to political office.

The court put an end to individuals blocking the people's will by holding unconstitutional the law which permits a citizen to bring suit testing the qualifications of a candidate for governor. This right belongs to the legislature, the court said.

In sustaining the eligibility of women to hold office in this state, the court said that this right belongs to every person who is not specifically excluded by the constitution.

The decision will have a farreaching effect as it is one of the first cases directly to test the fifth amendment granting equal suffrage to women. The suffrage amendments to the federal and state constitutions were interpreted as giving women not only the right to vote, but also the right to hold office. The decision today would create a rule out of accord with the customs of the time and the morals of the people, the court said.

OPPOSE COURT RULE

Santa Barbara, Cal., Oct. 25.—The Morning Post declares that the state supreme court's 4-to-3 decision against placing the La Follette electors on the state ballot "is contrary to public policy and is bound to have harmful consequences."

"There is already too much distrust of the courts without adding to it the feeling in the minds of thousands of voters that they are being deprived of the fundamental right of choosing their own public servants.

The newspaper declares that every believer in our institutions will, regardless of their political beliefs, "sincerely regret" the decision.

MANY TURNS IN LAW

Olympia, Wash., Oct. 25.—The crooks and turn in law were shown in a decision by the state supreme court that injured workmen may be paid compensation due them, but the warrants can not be cashed by the state treasurer.

According to the court, warrants issued by the state auditor are legal so far as the auditor is concerned, but not for the state treasurer.

The injured worker must have the auditor's warrant cashed for him at elsewhere, and the new holder will wait for his money until further funds are appropriated by the next legislature.

PLUMBERS' OFFICER IS DEAD

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 25.—Martin J. Conroy, vice president of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters, died suddenly in this city of heart disease. He was a member of the state senate.

Longshoremen Back La Follette; Officials Will Not Be Intimidated

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 25.—The executive council of the Longshoremen's International association "will not be bulldozed into going along with the fake indorsement of Coolidge," said Anthony J. Chlopek, president of that international, in a letter to George W. Soule, secretary of the Pacific coast district of longshoremen.

The letter was the answer to a telegram to Soule from New York city longshoremen that they would withdraw from the international if the executive council of the longshoremen concurred in the political policy of the A. F. of L. Soule forwarded the telegram to President Chlopek, who replies that "the telegram is all bunk" and that it is part of a mob scheme staged by "the chairman of the United States shipping board," who at one time was president of the longshoremen's union.

"The telegram is the work of a certain mob in the district council of New York who do not believe or practice fair play, but on the other hand are attempting to bulldoge the international executive council into going along with the fake indorsement of Coolidge," said President Chlopek.

"All of this is the work of the chairman of the United States shipping board, and the mob in New York who is doing his bidding.

"I am indeed gratified to be able to advise you that the majority of our international executive council has voted to fully concur in the policy of the American Federation of Labor, and that is the set policy of our international. You are at liberty to so advise all our locals on the Pacific coast."

COLLEGE EDUCATION VALUED AT $72,000

Boston, Oct. 25.—A college education is worth $72,000 to its possessor, according to a report made public by Dean Everett W. Lord of the Boston university. The estimate is based on a study of the earning capacity of college graduates and of the college-bred as compared with those who have had only a high school education is placed at $33,000.

The report gives the average maximum yearly income of the untrained man as $1,200; that of the high school graduate, $2,200, and of the college graduate, $6,000. The total earnings of each of the three types, up to the age of 60, are placed at $45,000, $78,000 and $150,000, respectively. While the untrained man at the age of 50 begins to drop toward dependence, the college man reaches his maximum earning capacity at 60.

The untrained man goes to work as a boy of 14 and reaches his maximum income at the age of 30," the report said. "The premium is, on the average, less than $1,200 a year. In view of the fact that this income is earned through manual labor, dependent on physical strength, it begins to fall off at the age of 50, or even earlier, and soon reaches a level below self-support. The figures show that more than 60 out of every 100 untrained workers are forced to look upon others for support at the age of 60.

"The total earnings of the untrained man from 14 to 60 are about $45,000. Between the ages of 14 and 18, the four years which might have been spent in high school, the young man usually earns not more than $2,000."

PRINTERS ACCEPT CONTRACT

New York, Oct. 25.—The Typographical union has accepted a commercial shop agreement submitted by its committee and representatives of the employers.

The present weekly rates are $53 for day work, $56 for night work and $59 for the third shift. These rates will continue until September 30, next year, when they will be advanced $1 for one year, and additional $1 will be paid the third year.

COAL OWNERS' GUN MAN SCORED BY U. S. JUDGE

Huntington, W. Va., Oct. 25.—Don Chafin, sheriff of Logan county and chief gun man for the coal owners, was denounced by Federal Judge McClintic, who sentenced the king pin two years in the Atlanta penitentiary for bootlegging.

The court warned other thugs in Logan county that witnesses against Chafin would be protected.

Judge McClintic showed he is acquainted with industrial conditions in Logan county and with the efforts of coal barons to further degrade their non-union employes.

The bootlegging that Chafin, sheriff of Logan county, was engaged in, said Judge McClintic, "had its inception largely in the desire of people to control the human beings who live in that county, and to use certain people of certain classes and make them do what they want them to do; and if they did not do it, then they would be driven out."

Judge McClintic said he did not care "what the suppliant judge of Logan county or the prosecuting attorney of Logan county' do, but the fact remains, said the judge, that these public officials protected the sheriff and his pals in their bootlegging.

NO ONE TO BET ON DAVIS

New York, Oct. 25.—"There is absolutely no Davis money in the betting market, according to one financial journal, which says that Davis odds might be 40 to one so far as any chance of Mr. Davis' election is concerned."

CANT MOVE WITHOUT PERMIT

Jackson, Miss., Oct. 25.—It will be impossible for a family in this city to move from one house to another if the city commission accepts a proposed ordinance. The organized labor movement is opposing this autocratic proposal.

PROFITS IN SULPHUR

New York, Oct. 25.—Profits of the Texas gulf sulphur company are at the rate of $4,000,000 annually. Net earnings for the last quarter were $1,140,219.

5 AND 10 STORES PAY

New York, Oct. 25.—The S. S. Kresge company and 10 cent store chain system reports a profit of $6,579,996 for the first nine months of 1924. This is an increase of $200,000 over the same period last year.

NEW GLASS EXECUTIVE

Philadelphia, Oct. 25.—James Maloney is the new president of the Window Glass Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada. He succeeds the late John A. Voll.

"WHY CHANGE?" ASKS PRIVILEGE; "WE'RE O. K."

"Why change?" is the query privilege presents to the voter, in the closing days of the campaign.

This is a new version of "Back to normalcy," "Stand pat" and "Leave well enough alone," that have been used in other campaigns by those who secure favors through their control of government.

"Why change?" when the supreme court exalts property over human rights.

"Why change?" when free speech, press and assemblage—for the workers—is controlled by injunction judges.

"Why change?" when corrupt leases and exorbitant profits are shielded from the public eye, as is Daughertyism and other scandals in government.

"Why change?" when the railroads are making record profits and when railroad workers must go to a railroad-controlled board for wage increases.

"Why change?" when the nation's water power is falling into the hands of the few, as has the public domain and other nfatural resources.

"Why change?" from grain speculation, profiteering in agricultural products and private control of the people's credit.

"Why change?" when farmers have been deflated and their machinery costs inflated, and when Liberty bonds bought at 100 by the common people were sold at 80 to those who refused credit until they could buy the bonds at bargain prices.

"Why change?" when cooperative production and distribution by the people is blocked by bureaucrats and profiteers, and when the supreme court permits profits to escape taxation by calling them stock dividends.

"Why change?" when the treasury department aids in the concealment of excessive profits, as shown by income tax returns.

Men who prosper through these wrongs want no change. They praise only those who favor an indulgent policy toward legalized loot. They are enraged at those who reject their stand-pat policy.

It is folly to expect aught else from privilege. It is folly to expect old-partyites to but calmly view these wrongs and chirp "common sense" and "common honesty."

The A. F. of L. executive council has declared that "both Republican and Democratic parties, through manipulated control, are in a condition of moral bankruptcy which constitutes a ménace and a peril to our country and its institutions."

The progressive candidates are the foremost statesmen in the nation. Their record is honesty and construction. Their platform is a declaration of popular rule and a detailed pledge to end privilege.

Let us believer in La Follette and Wheeler expect that opposition to them will be of the kid glove kind.

Reaction engages in no sham contest or pillow fight when its rule is challenged. Reaction is desperate and unscrupulous.

Reaction is fighting to hold its loot. Hence its frenzy at criticism of its agents who protect that loot.

The law of the jungle still operates.

That's why reaction asks: "Why change?"

MANAGERS DISBAND ANTI-UNION BODY

New York, Oct. 25.—The Producing Managers' association, formed to combat the Actors' Equity association, will disband, it was announced. When organized, they announced their opposition to the actors' association, which includes in its state most of the theatrical world, and is affiliated to the A. F. of L.

The actors' solidarity resulted in a break in the managers' ranks, and the element that favored dealing with the actors' union formed the Managers' protective association.

The antis are gradually getting into line. When the association of theater organization they will divide a fund of $250,000 that they contributed to fight Equity.

PROFITS IN AUTOS

New York, Oct. 25.—The General Motors corporation expects to announce a profit of $24,000,000 for the first nine months of 1924. This does not include a profit of $5,000,000 for two of its subsidiaries.

SHOE WORKERS ORGANIZE

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 25.—Shoe workers in this city have organized and are affiliated with the trade union movement.